



U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE ON

Finance

SENATOR CHUCK GRASSLEY, OF IOWA - CHAIRMAN

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Opening Statement of Sen. Chuck Grassley
Chairman, Committee on Finance
Hearing to Consider Seven Nominees
Tuesday, May 16, 2001

Good morning. Today's hearing is on seven nominees for key positions in the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Treasury, and the office of the United States Trade Representative.

I'm glad that the administration is making such progress in getting nominees in place; in fact, I understand that the Department of Health and Human Services will have only two more nominees requiring a hearing before this committee after today. I want to note the importance of these key appointees in getting our legislative work done. For example, Mr. Allen, Mr. Scully and Mr. Jindal will play crucial roles in this committee's effort to strengthen and reform Medicare. I am determined to accomplish that goal this year, and I will be glad to have your assistance.

Mr. Allgeier and Ms. Deily will provide important direction to the Office of the United States Trade Representative. I am confident their guidance and expertise will help restore American leadership in world trade. The first step in that direction will occur next month, when I hope the Finance Committee will consider and approve legislation to renew the President's Trade Promotion Authority. I am determined to accomplish that goal this year as well.

After recognizing Senator Baucus for a brief opening statement, we can move to a period of questioning of the nominees. We're not voting today due to senators' scheduling conflicts, but we'll try to schedule a vote as soon as possible. The nominees are:

- ▶ Claude Allen to be Deputy Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services;
- ▶ Thomas Scully to be Administrator of the Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services;
- ▶ Bobby Jindal to be Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health and Human Services;
- ▶ Linnet F. Deily to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the Rank of Ambassador, Executive Office of the President;
- ▶ Peter Allgeier to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative, with the Rank of Ambassador, Executive Office of the President;
- ▶ Peter R. Fisher to be Under Secretary for Domestic Finance, U.S. Department of Treasury;
- ▶ and James Gurule to be Under Secretary of the Treasury for Enforcement, U.S. Department of Treasury.

We had hoped to include Wade Horn, nominee for the Administration on Children and Family Services, in this hearing, but have not yet completed review of his materials. We will complete that review and schedule a hearing for Mr. Horn shortly.

